

Ag Digest

Released: Early March 2002

Bi-Monthly

Vol. 02 No. 05

Highlights

Farm Labor
Honey
Farm Numbers
Agricultural Prices
Cold Storage
Monthly Hogs & Pigs
Trout Production
Poultry
Livestock Slaughter

HIRED WORKERS UP 7 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP OVER 3 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 914,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 6-12, 2002, up 7 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 731,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 183,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 7.6 percent of the January hired workforce compared with 9.6 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$8.96 per hour during the January 2002 survey week, up 30 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.25 per hour, up 49 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$8.25 per hour compared with \$8.07 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate at \$8.25 was up 38 cents from last year.

Number of hours worked averaged 38.6 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 37.3 hours a year ago.

FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE RATES, WEEK OF JANUARY 6-12, 2002

Item	NE II ¹	U. S.
	<i>Thousands</i>	
Farm Employment		
Hired Workers	33	731
Expected to be Employed .		
150 Days or More	29	597
149 Days or Less	4	134
	<i>Hours</i>	
Hours Worked		
Hired	38.1	38.6
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	
Wage Rates for		
All Hired Workers ^{2 3}	8.87	8.96
Type of Worker		
Field & Livestock Combined	7.95	8.25
Field	8.71	8.25
Livestock	6.88	8.25

¹ NORTHEAST II includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. ² Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the value are not included in the wage rates. ³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address:

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm>

HONEY PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania honey production in 2001 (from producers with five or more hives) totaled 969,000 pounds, down 2 percent from 2000. There were an estimated 17,000 colonies statewide, down 5,000 from last year. The average yield was 57 pounds per colony. Average yield per colony in 2000 was 45 pounds. Total stocks of honey, as of December 15, 2001, were 514,000 pounds, 7 percent less than the previous year.

Honey producers in Pennsylvania received an average price of 87 cents per pound for the 2001 crop. Total value of honey produced in 2001 is estimated at 843,000 dollars for Pennsylvania production. Pennsylvania ranks 27th in the nation for honey production.

A sample of honey producers were contacted in December 2001 for information on number of colonies, honey production, honey stocks on hand for sale, and prices received for honey sold during 2001.

Nationally, honey production in 2001 from producers with five or more hives totaled 186 million pounds, down 16 percent from 2000. There were 2.51 million colonies producing honey in 2001, down 4 percent from 2000. The yield per colony averaged 74.0 pounds, down 10.1 pounds from the 84.1 pounds in 2000. Producer honey stocks were 64.8 million pounds on December 15, 2001, down 24 percent from a year earlier.

Prices for the 2001 U.S. honey crop averaged 66.9 cents per pound, up 12 percent from 59.7 cents in 2000. Honey prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, FEBRUARY 2002

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Feb 2001	Jan 2002	Feb 2002 ¹	Feb 2001	Jan 2002	Feb 2002 ¹
<i>Dollars</i>							
Corn	Bu.	2.35	2.35	2.33	1.96	1.97	1.93
Wheat, Winter	Bu.	-	-	-	2.75	2.81	2.82
Oats	Bu.	1.49	1.90	1.93	1.28	1.91	1.95
Barley	Bu.	-	-	-	2.10	2.10	2.19
Hay, Dry All	Ton	105.00	124.00	125.00	86.90	93.00	90.40
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	119.00	143.00	142.00	92.90	101.00	99.50
Dry Other	Ton	92.00	109.00	109.00	71.80	73.70	70.80
Apples, Fresh Use	Lb.	.230	.200	.210	.152	.217	.214
Potatoes	Cwt.	7.90	9.65	10.40	5.26	6.90	7.51
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	43.00	39.60	41.90	42.80	38.00	40.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	74.60	65.80	68.60	78.70	71.20	74.10
Calves	Cwt.	112.00	114.00	117.00	109.00	102.00	104.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	36.30	35.50	37.80	39.60	38.30	39.00
Sows	Cwt.	28.40	25.90	27.30	30.70	26.40	27.90
Eggs, ²	Doz.	.550	.470	.440	.509	.450	.366
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	14.60	15.00	-	13.10	13.40	13.40
Manufactured Grade ..	Cwt.	10.70	12.60	-	11.10	12.40	12.20
All	Cwt.	14.60	15.00	14.80	13.00	13.40	13.30
Milk Cows ³	Head	-	1,650.00	-	-	1,610.00	-

¹ Preliminary. ² Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ³ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.).

FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 4 POINTS

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in February was 99, using a 1990-92=100 base period, up 4 points (4.2 percent) from the January index. Price increases for lettuce, cattle, broccoli, and potatoes more than offset decreased prices for broilers, tomatoes, peanuts, and eggs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher marketings for milk, cattle,

broilers, and hogs more than offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco, and wheat.

Compared with February 2001, the All Farm Products Index was down 1 point (1.0 percent). Lower prices for cattle, broilers, eggs, and onions offset higher prices for lettuce, broccoli, potatoes, and oranges.

FARMS, RANCHES AND LAND IN FARMS DECLINED IN 2001

The number of farms and ranches in the United States in 2001 is estimated at 2.16 million, down 0.7 percent from 2000. The decline in farms and ranches occurred primarily in agricultural operations with sales in the \$10,000-\$99,999 economic class. This is the second largest decline in farms and ranches since the 1.4% drop in 1991. Total land in farms, at 941.2 million acres, declined 0.2 percent or 1.9 million acres from last year. The average size of farm increased 2 acres from 434 acres in 2000 to 436 acres in 2001.

The North Central Region's loss of farms was the largest with a decline of 9,500 operations, 1.2% less than was estimated in 2000. The West Region lost 2,600 farms and ranches, 0.9% fewer than the previous year. The number of farms and ranches declined 1,600 or 0.2% in the South Region and 800 or 0.6 % in the Northeast Region.

The number of farms and ranches during 2001 declined in 23 States, remained unchanged in 22 States, and increased in five States. States losing 2,000 farms during the year were Illinois, Kentucky, and Ohio. Iowa farms declined by 1,500 while Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, and Washington lost 1,000 farms and ranches. Of the five States showing increases in the number of farms and ranches, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas gained 1,000 operations during the year.

Texas, which leads the Nation in acres in farms and ranches with 130 million acres, remained unchanged from 2000. Colorado's agricultural acreage dropped by 300,000 acres and Montana's land in farms and ranches declined 200,000 acres during the year. States losing 100,000 acres were: Alabama,

Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, New York, and Ohio. Only Tennessee increased in farm and ranch acreage, gaining 100,000 acres. Overall, farm and ranch acreage declined in 20 states, remained unchanged in 29 states, and increased in one state.

NUMBER OF FARMS & LAND IN FARMS ¹

Year	Number of Farms	Land in Farms	Average Size of Farm
	<i>Number</i>	<i>(000) Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
PENNSYLVANIA			
1999	59,000	7,700	131
2000	59,000	7,700	131
2001	59,000	7,700	131
UNITED STATES			
1999	2,192,070	947,440	432
2000	2,172,280	943,090	434
2001	2,157,780	941,210	436

¹ A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.

**UNITED STATES: MONTHLY FARROWINGS - NUMBER OF SOWS, PIGS PER LITTER AND PIG CROP;
MONTHLY SOWS AND GILTS - INVENTORY AND NUMBER BRED ¹**

Month and Year	Sows Farrowing		Pigs per Litter		Pig Crop		Sows and Gilts			
							Inventory ^{1st} of Month		Bred during Month	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
December ²	901	917	8.66	8.80	(000)		6,090	6,031	1,185	1,189
January	906	929	8.71	8.80	7,803	8,069	6,030	6,022	1,169	1,187
February	941		8.79		8,273		6,031	5,996	1,142	
March	958		8.88		8,503		6,053		1,200	
April	954		8.89		8,481		5,987		1,170	
May	958		8.90		8,525		5,974		1,165	
June	953		8.80		8,386		6,001		1,197	
July	931		8.81		8,205		5,955		1,155	
August	954		8.84		8,438		5,955		1,133	
September	966		8.75		8,448		5,975		1,171	
October	950		8.78		8,344		5,990		1,197	
November	930		8.80		8,180		5,968		1,191	
Total	11,302		8.80		99,473					

¹ The full report can be accessed from www.usda.gov/nass/ by selecting 'Publications' then 'Reports Calendar,' then the release date. The release date for this *Monthly Hogs and Pigs* report is 2002, February 22. ² December preceeding year.

TROUT PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania's 60 commercial trout growers sold 1.88 million pounds of trout, valued at \$4.89 million during 2001. This was down from the 2.01 million pounds valued at \$5.44 million sold in 2000. In addition to those sold, an estimated \$10.8 million worth of trout were distributed for conservation and recreational purposes throughout the state, primarily by state hatcheries, cooperative nurseries, and private fishing clubs. PASS, a joint operation of the National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, compiles data on Pennsylvania food and fiber production as part of a nationwide effort.

Sales of trout 12 inches or longer by the state's growers totaled 1.64 million pounds, or 87 percent of the total production sold during the period. This was down 37,000 lbs. or 2 percent from the same period a year ago. Averaging \$2.50 per pound, compared to \$2.54 last year and \$1.13 nationally, the 12 inch and larger trout were valued at \$4.10 million. Fee and recreational sales accounted for 55 percent of the production, and restaurant and retail sales also accounted for 24 percent.

Sales of trout 6 to 12 inches long by Pennsylvania growers totaled 540,000 fish, or 232,000 pounds live weight during the period. This was down 87,000 lbs. or 27 percent from the same period a year ago. At an average of \$3.20 a pound, compared to \$3.30 last year and \$2.40 nationally, sales of 6 to 12 inch trout were valued at \$742,000, with 73 percent of the volume sold to fee and recreational establishments.

Sales of trout 1 to 6 inches long by Pennsylvania growers totaled 220,000 fish, or 6,000 pounds live weight during the period. This was down 8,000 lbs. or 57 percent from the same period a year ago. At an average of \$237.00 per thousand fish, compared to \$360.00 last year and \$143.00 nationally, sales of 1 to 6 inch trout were valued at \$52 thousand.

Trout distributed for restoration or conservation purposes, primarily by the state fish commission but also by private fishing clubs, included 1.06 million fish 12" or longer, 5.35 million 6-12" fish, and 50,000 fingerlings.

Total losses of all Pennsylvania trout intended for sale were 1.40 million fish during 2001, with 63 percent being lost to predators and 31 percent lost to disease. Losses of trout raised for distribution were primarily due to disease and predators as well.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service surveyed commercial trout growers in Pennsylvania and 19 other states: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Information was collected by mail, telephone and personal interview.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 31, 2002

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 5,810,000 bushels on January 31, 2002, compared to 4,701,000 bushels on January 31, 2001. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 1,652,000; Golden Delicious with 1,390,000; and Rome with 1,012,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 243,982,000 pounds on January 31, 2002, compared to 199,836,000 pounds on January 31, 2001. Pear stocks in cold storage increased from previous year's stocks of 382,000 pounds to 869,000 pounds on January 31, 2002.

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, JANUARY 31, 2002

Variety	January 31, 2001					January 31, 2002				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
<i>(1,000) Bushels</i>										
York	3	0	763	560	1,326	27	2	986	637	1,652
Stayman	11	12	37	32	92	20	17	33	45	115
Rome	17	66	356	460	899	33	66	297	616	1,012
Red Delicious ...	88	344	134	96	662	125	424	219	108	876
Golden Delicious	13	121	628	452	1,214	26	163	605	596	1,390
Jonathan	0	0	9	0	9	1	0	84	0	85
McIntosh	2	2	3	113	120	9	1	2	0	12
Cortland	3	0	1	0	4	7	1	0	0	8
Other ²	71	60	135	109	375	116	95	269	180	660
Total	208	605	2,066	1,822	4,701	364	769	2,495	2,182	5,810

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. ² Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Jan 2001	Dec 2001	Jan 2002	Jan 2001	Dec 2001	Jan 2002
Layers	Thous.	24,085	23,820	23,938	333,798	338,524	338,265
Eggs Per 100 Layers	Number	2,296	2,317	2,293	2,128	2,187	2,143
Eggs Produced	Million	500	552	549	7,103	7,403	7,248
Chick Hatch-Egg Type	Thous.	5,613	4,565	4,540	37,976	31,504	35,533
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	12,585	13,549	13,264	733,889	769,419	775,669
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	25,612	24,563	26,058

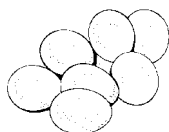
EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during January 2002 totaled 549 million eggs, up 10 percent from January 2001. The total number of layers on hand averaged 23.9 million during January, down 1 percent from one year earlier. Production per 100 layers was 2293 eggs during the month, compared with 2296 eggs in January 2001.

Egg-type chicks hatched during January 2002 totaled 4.5 million, 19 percent less than the 5.6 million hatched the previous January. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 13.3 million during January 2002, up 5 percent from the previous year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.25 billion during January 2002, up 2 percent from last year. The total number of layers during January 2002 averaged 338 million, up 1 percent from the total average number of layers during January 2001. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,143 eggs, up 1 percent from January 2001.

Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during January totaled 35.5 million, down 6 percent from January 2001. Broiler-type hatch totaled 776 million, 6 percent more than the previous January.



COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JAN 2002

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod	Mil. Lbs.	106.0	4,081
Cattle	Thous. Hd.	89.0	3,056
	Mil. Lbs. Live	113.5	3,851
Calves	Thous. Hd.	13.9	87
	Mil. Lbs. Live	5.2	28
Hogs	Thous. Hd.	217.7	8,658
	Mil. Lbs. Live	55.3	2,317
Sheep & Lambs	Thous. Hd.	4.2	255
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.5	36

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in Pennsylvania during January 2002 totaled 106.0 million pounds, up 2 percent from January 2001. Beef production, at 113.5 million pounds live weight, was down less than 1 percent from January 2001. Total head slaughtered was 89,000, down 300 head from 2001, and live weight averaged 1,275 pounds, a decrease of 6 pounds. Veal production was 5.2 million pounds live weight, down 12 percent. Calf slaughter of 13,900 head was down 13 percent and average live weight increased 5 pounds to 376 pounds. Pork production was 55.3 million pounds live weight, up 7 percent from 2001. Total head slaughtered was 217,000, a slight decrease from last year. Live weight averaged 254 pounds, an increase of 18 pounds. Lamb and mutton production was 450,000 pounds live weight, up 23 percent. The number slaughtered was 4,200, up 17 percent from the previous year. The average live weight increased 5 pounds to 107 pounds.

PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE
 2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19
 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-9405
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS
 PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

PRST STD
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID
 USDA
 PERMIT NO. G-38